(d) the steps proposed to give adequate importance to this sector and review existing priorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise,

(d) The Ninth Plan lays special emphasis on adopting an integrated approach to empower the persons with disabilities so as to make them productive contributors to the national economy. For this purpose, efforts will be made to converge the existing services under the Social Sector and to give special attention to the rural disabled. Besides continuing existing schemes already catering to the disabled persons, it is proposed to take up a programme for rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities as a State sector Scheme for which State Governments and UT Administrations have been asked to earmark funds in their Annual Plans.

Growth Rate

1064. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive resource mobilisation by the Central and State Government is essential to achieve a growth rate of 6.5 per cent in the Ninth Plan period:

(b) to what extent have the states agreed to the required resource mobilisation;

(c) whether any provision has been made by the Planning Commission to raise or suggest ways to raise additional revenue and resource mobilisation; and

(d) the details of plan chalked out to achieve the growth rate of 6.5 per cent in the Ninth plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) (c) and (d) yes Sir. The details on this subject are already given in the Ninth Plan Document.

(b) The targets of required resource mobilisation in the Ninth Plan have been worked out after detailed discussions with all the State Governments.

Identification of Backward Areas in the Country

1065. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have decided to identify backward areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the normal central assistance to the State, State-wise given from 1996 till date in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned state Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal